

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111682
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:GCB
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NEA:EGABINGTON
P:PHABIB (PER
S/S -O:LMACFARLANE
-----161637Z 021166 /43

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111682

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ; HABIB'S VISIT TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 111682

BAGHDAD

FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE RE HABIB VISIT TO IRAQ WHICH
WOULD BE ISSUED ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS:

-- UNDER SECRETARY HABIB IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE
IN THE AREA TO PAY A SHORT VISIT TO BAGHDAD OF ABOUT TWO

DAYS. THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP IS TO EXPLORE WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HOW U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS COULD BE IMPROVED.

-- DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAQ WERE BROKEN BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT DURING THE JUNE 1967 WAR. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RESTORED. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS AN IRAQI INTERESTS SECTION ATTACHED TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO HANDLE IRAQI INTERESTS IN THE U.S. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE HAD A U.S. INTERESTS SECTION ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY OF BELGIUM IN BAGHDAD, HEADED BY A SENIOR FSO, MARSHALL W. WILEY.

-- U.S.-IRAQI TRADE HAS BEEN EXPANDING. IN 1976 U.S. EXPORTS TO IRAQ EXCEEDED \$381 MILLION AND THE U.S. IMPORTED \$123 MILLION APPROXIMATELY FROM IRAQ.

-- UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S VISIT IS BEING TAKEN AT OUR INITIATIVE. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE FOR THE WIDEST POSSIBLE GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ RECIPROCATES THIS DESIRE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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